

FRÖHLICHOVÁ, Jana. *Analysis of Bipolar Tendencies of the Party System in the Czech Republic Electoral Competition Focusing on the Situation of Smaller Parties in Parliament*. Prague, 2011. 120 pp. Thesis. Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science. Thesis Supervisor Doc. PhDr. Tomáš Lebeda, Ph.D.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the multifactory aspect of the influence the modern election competitions impose on a party's structure. More specifically, it describes how the standing of small parties is affected during ongoing gradual bipolarization. There are two approaches to the research. First, the paper examines the effect the electoral mechanism on the party's system have in the Czech Republic focusing on the parliament elections to the Chamber of Deputies in years 2002-2010. The mechanical and psychological elements of the elections influencing the profits of small parliament parties are analyzed. Second, the thesis addresses other factors concerning the election competitions that affect the standing of small parliament parties. The election campaigns in the 21st century are being professionalized and there is bipolarization of the election competitions. The party's structure is not influenced merely by the election rules. Other factors like use of political marketing, growing interest of media, decreasing identification of voters with parties play a role as well. With this approach the research outcome reflects the election competition within broader standpoint of the society nature it is taking place in. The final synthesis of the researched material help to identify whether the bipolarization of the election competitions until 2006 installed a trend proceeding to the future and how it may affect the representation of small political parties in the lower chamber of the Parliament.

Keywords

election system, party system, small parties, the Czech Republic, election campaign, bipolarization